United Nations A/64/143

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 July 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

Note verbale dated 25 June 2009 from the Permanent Mission of the Comoros to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of the Comoros to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte" in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

09-40105 (E) 160709

Please recycle

United Nations A/64/144

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly

Note verbale dated 14 July 2009 from the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request, pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly".

An explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) in support of the above request are attached to the present letter pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of the procedure.

We also have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

09-40323 (E) 160709

Please recycle

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. Historical background

1. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in 2002 following calls in 2001 by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly of the United Nations for the establishment of such a fund. On 27 June 2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution supporting the "establishment, on an urgent basis, of a global HIV/AIDS and health fund" to finance a response to the epidemic (resolution S/26-2). Immediately following the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, appointed a Transitional Working Group under the leadership of Ugandan Minister Chrispus Kiyonga to develop the basic principles (Framework Document) and structure of this new organization. Several country delegations served on the working group, preparing for the first board meeting in January 2002.

2. Purpose

2. According to the Framework Document of the Global Fund, "The purpose of the Fund is to attract, manage and disburse additional resources through a new public-private partnership that will make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death, thereby mitigating the impact caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need, and contribute to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals".

3. While the Global Fund was created with a strong mandate from the General Assembly it currently has no status that would allow regular interaction and reporting at United Nations Headquarters, including the General Assembly and the Secretariat. The history of the Global Fund is tightly linked to the United Nations. A grant of observer status will increase the Global Fund's effectiveness in achieving broad goals set by the United Nations such as the Millennium Development Goals. Because of this interconnectedness, both the Global Fund and the United Nations will benefit from the Global Fund's status as an observer.

3. Organizational structure

4. The Global Fund is a partnership of Governments, civil society, private sector corporations and foundations, and communities of persons affected by the three diseases. A total of 44 countries have contributed financial resources to the Global Fund, and the Global Fund has made grants to 137 countries in five continents — Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. The Global Fund functions through the Board, a secretariat headed by an Executive Director, the independent Technical Review Panel, the Partnership Forum, and an independent Office of the Inspector-General:

(a) The Board of the Global Fund consists of representatives of donor and recipient Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector (including businesses and foundations) and communities affected by the three diseases. Key international development partners — the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World

Bank — are non-voting members of the Board, and the World Bank also serves as the Global Fund's trustee. The Board is the Global Fund's supreme governing body;

(b) The secretariat — headed by an Executive Director — is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Global Fund, including mobilizing resources from the public and private sectors, managing grants, providing financial, legal and administrative support, and reporting information on the Global Fund's activities to the Board and the public;

(c) The Technical Review Panel is an independent and impartial team of experts that reviews eligible grant proposals for technical merit including soundness of approach, feasibility and potential for sustainability, and on the basis of this review recommends proposals for funding to the Board;

(d) The Partnership Forum meets every two years, bringing together a broad range of global stakeholders to discuss Global Fund performance and to make recommendations on its strategy and effectiveness;

(e) The Office of the Inspector-General operates as an independent unit of the Global Fund, reporting directly to the Board. Its primary purpose is to provide the Global Fund with independent and objective oversight to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of its programmes and operations including compliance with policies and procedures.

4. Financing

6. The Global Fund is funded by contributions by Governments, corporations and foundations, usually through multi-year pledges. The Global Fund has a voluntary replenishment mechanism, and the current replenishment period is 2008-2010. Total pledges and contributions to the Global Fund until the end of 2010 amount to approximately US$ 21 billion.

5. Activities

7. The Global Fund provides financing to programmes for the prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through funding cycles in which it issues periodic calls for proposals from multisector partnerships of Governments, civil society and private sector partnerships in highly affected developing countries, evaluates these proposals, and disburses funds to Board-approved proposals.

8. The Global Fund has so far approved $16 billion to programmes in 137 countries in eight funding rounds. As the Global Fund is a performance-based funding institution, funds are disbursed only upon proof of performance with initially disbursed tranches of funds. The Global Fund has so far disbursed approximately $7.8 billion. A total of 63 per cent of the resources of the Global Fund have gone to support prevention, treatment and care programmes in Africa, 20 per cent going to Asia and the Pacific, and the rest to Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.

9. The Global Fund is located at Geneva, and has no country offices. It relies on its partnerships with other development and technical partners, including the United Nations and the specialized agencies, civil society and the private sector to support countries in delivering effective programmes and services to communities in need.

These programmes evolve from national plans and are developed by implementing countries rather than the Global Fund. Programmes are developed by Global Fund country coordination mechanisms, which are independent, national level multisector partnerships that reflect the global partnership structure of the Global Fund. The yearly operational costs for managing the Global Fund are less than 4 per cent of the value of active grants.

10. A number of principles guide the operation and activities of the Global Fund. It operates as a financial instrument, not an implementing entity. The Global Fund makes available and leverages additional financial resources to support programmes that reflect national ownership. The Global Fund operates in a geographically balanced manner (reflecting the burden of diseases and consequent demand from each region), and pursues an integrated and balanced approach to prevention and treatment. It evaluates proposals through an independent review process, and operates in a transparent and accountable manner.

11. In comparison to other sources of funding, Global Fund resources provide 23 per cent of global financing in the fight against HIV/AIDS, 60 per cent of the global financing for malaria interventions, and 57 per cent for tuberculosis. A total of 54 per cent of Global Fund resources go to HIV/AIDS programmes, 30 per cent to malaria, and 16 per cent to tuberculosis.

12. The Global Fund has achieved significant global impact in the fight against these pandemics in the seven years of its existence: financing by the Global Fund has put 2.3 million people on treatment for HIV/AIDS, more than 5 million on treatment for tuberculosis, and provided more than 80 million insecticide-treated bednets to prevent malaria in Africa and Asia.

13. The current focus of the Global Fund is to scale up its impact even further to fight these three diseases. To this end, the Global Fund is working with its partners to support countries to increase their capacity to utilize these resources effectively.

6. Relations with other organizations

14. The Global Fund has signed a number of memorandums of understanding with its partners, UNAIDS and its 10 co-sponsors,[1] and the Stop TB Partnership to strengthen the close collaboration that exists between the Global Fund and those entities. The Global Fund also has a close relationship with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is an implementer of Global Fund-financed programmes in several countries, as well as with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the World Bank, which is the trustee of the Global Fund's resources and makes disbursements to Global Fund-financed programmes.

15. The Global Fund continues to be active in the work of a number of key platforms for major players in global health, working with other organizations towards harmonization, avoiding duplications, and clarifying the roles of each organization in global health. Examples include the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors and

[1] Specific operational arrangements may be developed with individual UNAIDS co-sponsors as may be necessary, under the overarching framework of the memorandum of understanding.

the H8, an informal group of the executive heads of organizations playing leading roles in international public health.[2]

7. The history of observer status at the United Nations

16. Following the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, observer status was accorded to States that could not at that point qualify for membership in the Organization but whose presence was important to United Nations work. As the role of the United Nations expanded, this status was extended to international intergovernmental organizations whose work was deemed important to the performance of United Nations tasks.[3] As at 11 December 2008 the General Assembly had granted observer status to 72 organizations.

17. Because there are no formal constitutional rules in the Charter for granting observer status, the process has developed through practice. Currently observer status is granted to entities "(i) whose missions are connected to or are part of the responsibilities assumed by the United Nations; (ii) whose presence and limited participatory rights are important to the performance of the observer's organizational mission and responsibilities; and (iii) whose presence and limited participatory rights are important to the discharge of the United Nations missions and responsibilities".[4]

18. This practice has included granting observer status to entities that are not strictly intergovernmental organizations. During the 1990s the General Assembly granted observer status to four organizations that were not purely intergovernmental: the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.[5]

19. In 1994, the General Assembly requested that the Sixth Committee suggest criteria to be used when granting observer status in the General Assembly. At the 84th plenary meeting of its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly considered the recommendation of the Sixth Committee and decided that the granting of observer status should be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly (decision 49/426).

20. The General Assembly took note of the oral report of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, which stressed the discretionary nature of the decision to grant observer status. The Chairman shared the views of some delegations who believed it was possible for the General Assembly to grant observer status even when the organization was not strictly intergovernmental, if the organization contributed to the work of the General Assembly. Therefore, the decision to grant observer status is a discretionary one, which the General Assembly can take if it feels that the work of an organization is important enough to warrant such recognition.

---

[2] The H8 includes the executive heads of the World Bank, the Global Fund, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

[3] W. Michael Reisman, "Opinion as to the qualifications of the Global Fund for observer status at the United Nations". Unpublished paper.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

8. What is an intergovernmental organization?

21. While the decision to grant observer status is discretionary, it is helpful to consider exactly what an intergovernmental organization is and how this definition can influence which organizations are granted observer status. Currently, there is no authoritative definition in international law of the term "intergovernmental organization". Many intergovernmental organizations are created by a constituting treaty, but this is not a formal requirement. In fact, the International Law Commission refused to recognize the treaty requirement because the criterion was not always met in practice.[6]

22. It has been gradually recognized that even if an international organization's constitution is not a formal treaty, the organization can still be called intergovernmental as a result of the role the constitution gives to Governments with regard to such matters as membership, representation and financing. The International Law Commission wrote that the definition of intergovernmental organization should be understood in the sense given to it in practice: this can include an organization composed mainly of States, in some cases having associate members which may be other international organizations.[7] The Commission also suggested the criterion that the organization has its own international legal personality. Independent legal personality can be indicated by recognition from other States.

9. International character of the Global Fund

23. To respond to the urgent need for the establishment of the Global Fund in 2001, it was set up as a Swiss Foundation, on the understanding that the status of the Fund would evolve into an organization with an intergovernmental character strengthened by the strong participation of civil society and the private sector. While it is unusual for an intergovernmental organization to be established under municipal law it is possible. For example, the Bank for International Settlements is considered to be an intergovernmental organization even though it was also established under Swiss law.[8] The arbitration tribunal of the Bank found itself to be intergovernmental because the Bank had immunity from Swiss law, had functions that were primarily public and international in character, and was charged with the performance of an urgent international task. The Global Fund shares many of these characteristics and therefore could also be considered an intergovernmental organization.

24. In 2004, the Global Fund concluded a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Switzerland which recognizes the Global Fund's international juridical personality. Pursuant to the Headquarters Agreement, the Global Fund enjoys privileges and immunities in Switzerland equivalent to those of other international organizations in Switzerland.

25. In 2006, the Global Fund was designated a public international organization entitled to enjoy certain privileges, exemptions and immunities under the United

---

[6] Ibid.

[7] Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its twenty-sixth session [1974], chap. IV, sect. B, para. 7 of commentary to article 2; in *Yearbook of the International Law Commission, 1974*, vol. II (1).

[8] W. Michael Reisman, op cit.

States International Organizations Immunities Act of 1945. This was further recognition of the Global Fund's independent legal personality.

26. The Global Fund's principal decision-making body, the Global Fund Board, consists of 20 voting members. Fifteen of the 20 seats are occupied by representatives of States or groups of States.[9] International organizations (the World Health Organization, the World Bank and UNAIDS) are represented on the Global Fund Board as non-voting members.

27. While the Global Fund actively seeks contributions from private sources, approximately 95 per cent of the amount contributed to date has been paid by States.

28. The Global Fund is a unique body that was created in a time of need to handle a specific problem: reducing the impact of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Even though it was not established through a treaty, the Global Fund's international mission, predominantly State financing and independent legal personality as recognized by the United States and Switzerland all indicate that the Global Fund is more similar to an intergovernmental organization than to a non-governmental organization. Because of its unique character, the granting of observer status to the Global Fund cannot be used as a precedent for non-governmental organizations for similar purposes.

29. The Global Fund will be represented in the General Assembly only by the Executive Director, as mandated by its Board at its 19th meeting.

10. Reasons for seeking observer status for the Global Fund

30. The mandate of the Global Fund explicitly states that it was established to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly in 2000. The work of the Global Fund is directly related to the Millennium Development Goals that address issues of global health, as well as Millennium Development Goal 8 — to establish a global partnership for development. The Global Fund has established itself as the primary multilateral funding institution for Millennium Development Goal 6 (reversing the impact of HIV/AIDS and malaria).

---

[9] The composition of the Global Fund Board is as follows:

Donor block

Three seats are held by individual countries, 2 seats are held jointly by two countries, 1 seat is held jointly by three countries, 1 seat is held jointly by the European Commission plus three countries, and 1 seat is held jointly by six countries. Therefore a total of 19 donor countries are directly represented within the Global Fund governance structure (and a large number of others are represented indirectly through the European Commission).

Implementers block

Eastern Europe: 17 countries represented
Eastern Mediterranean: 22 countries represented
Eastern and southern Africa: 22 countries represented
Latin America and the Caribbean: 34 countries represented
South-East Asia: 11 countries represented
West and Central Africa: 25 countries represented
Western Pacific region: 24 countries represented

Therefore a total of 155 implementing countries are represented within the Global Fund governance structure. Altogether 174 countries are represented at Board level.

31. There is movement towards annual review and accountability for progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The initiative of the President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, who hosted a high-level debate on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in April 2008, is part of this trend. It would be valuable for the Global Fund, as a key partner of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to be able to participate fully in this forum and bring to the attention of the General Assembly the progress the Fund has recorded in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

32. United Nations funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies, are key operational partners for the Global Fund. The Global Fund also depends on those partnerships to achieve its agreed objectives. Being granted observer status in the General Assembly would boost the capacity of the Global Fund to collaborate with other United Nations agencies involved in global health and development and, hence, would allow the Global Fund to better fulfil its mandate of making a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of the impact of the three pandemics.

33. The Global Fund is inextricably linked to the United Nations, which played a key catalytic and convening role in its creation. The United Nations system clearly gave global legitimacy to the need for such a financial mechanism. The World Health Organization provided administrative hosting facilities to the Global Fund after its creation through the Administrative Services Agreement until 31 December 2008. Since 1 January 2009 the Global Fund has been operating independently. Observer status for the Global Fund in the General Assembly would formalize and foster the strong link between the United Nations and the Global Fund.

34. The coverage and impact of the Fund is global, with $16 billion committed to prevention, treatment and care programmes in 137 countries. When the more than 40 countries that have contributed resources — some of them implementing countries as well — to the Global Fund are considered together with the implementing countries, the universality of the work of the Global Fund becomes clear: nearly 180 States Members of the United Nations are partners in the Global Fund, either as donors or as implementers of life-saving programmes funded by the Global Fund. The Global Fund's participation as an observer in the proceedings of the General Assembly would strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Fund and would facilitate the work of the Global Fund in its mission to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Address

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Chemin de Blandonnet 8
1214 Vernier
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 17 00
Fax: +41 22 791 17 01

Head of Agency

Professor Michel Kazatchkine
Executive Director

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,

1. *Decides* to invite the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

United Nations A/64/145

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly

Letter dated 14 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of the item entitled "Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly" in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on the nature and description of the International Olympic Committee (annex I) and the relevant draft resolution (annex II) are also attached.

I have the honour to further request that this letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Giulio **Terzi**
Permanent Representative

09-40361 (E) 160709

Please recycle

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. Historical background

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded in 1894 for the purpose of placing sport at the service of humankind, promoting a peaceful society, and safeguarding human dignity. It espouses a philosophy of human development and healthy lifestyles by blending sport with culture and education. Its Founding Fathers were inspired by the Olympic Games of Greek antiquity, during which city states engaged in athletic competition in conditions of peace.

The Olympic Movement is an association of 205 National Olympic Committees; the International Federations that govern individual sports, such as FIFA and the International Association of Athletics Federations; the countries organizing the Olympic Games; the five Olympic continental associations; and millions of sportspersons around the world.

2. Symbols and motto

The symbol of IOC is the five interlaced rings in the primary colours found in all the flags of the United Nations Member States, representing the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games; the motto is "Citius-Altius-Fortius" (Faster Higher Stronger) expressing the aspirations of the Olympic Movement; and IOC also officially adopted the Olympic Anthem.

3. The Olympic Games

The International Olympic Committee organizes the Games of the Olympiad (Olympic Summer Games) and the Olympic Winter Games. Starting in 2010, IOC will introduce the Youth Olympic Games for summer and winter sports, whose main purpose is to prevent young people from falling into a sedentary lifestyle by encouraging them to participate in physical activity.

4. Membership

The International Olympic Committee consists of a maximum of 115 members that hold a general session at least once a year. They elect the IOC President by secret ballot for an initial eight-year term. The President presides over all IOC activities and acts as its permanent representative. Since 16 July 2001, Jacques Rogge of Belgium has been the President.

5. Organizational structure

Universality is at the heart of the IOC membership structure. All IOC members are volunteers and they bring their unique expertise to the management of IOC, spanning sectors as diverse as sport, economics, science, media, politics and geographical distribution. Most of the members have participated in the Games as athletes or been active athletes or sports officials.

The Executive Board meets quarterly to manage the affairs of IOC. It consists of the IOC President, four Vice-Presidents and 10 other members, including an athlete representative, elected for a four-year term by the session by secret ballot.

The President establishes IOC commissions that study specialized subjects and make recommendations to the Executive Board. Commission members include IOC members, representatives of the International Sports Federations, National Olympic Committees, athletes, technical experts, advisers, sports specialists and individuals of high standing in society or their professions.

The IOC sessions, Executive Board and commissions define the strategic decisions that are implemented by the IOC administration.

The IOC administration is placed under the responsibility of a Director General, who runs general affairs under the authority and guidance of the President. He is assisted in this task by departmental directors. The IOC administration is currently made up of about 450 staff of 38 nationalities. It has been headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, since 1915.

6. Association with the United Nations

Since 1993, every two years the United Nations General Assembly has deliberated and adopted a resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal," thus supporting IOC and Olympic Movement in its endeavours to contribute to the United Nations mission to promote mutual understanding, solidarity, and peaceful dialogue among communities. The resolutions are an acknowledgement of the critical role of sports in society. The resolutions are:

Resolution 48/11 in October 1993
Resolution 50/13 in November 1995
Resolution 52/21 in November 1997
Resolution 54/34 in November 1999
Resolution 56/75 in December 2001
Resolution 58/6 in November 2003
Resolution 60/8 in December 2005
Resolution 62/4 in October 2007

The General Assembly has also adopted a number of resolutions entitled "Sport as a means to promote education, health, peace and development," namely:

Resolution 58/5 in November 2003
Resolution 59/10 in October 2004
Resolution 61/10 in November 2006
Resolution 62/271 in July 2008

In its resolutions the Assembly has called upon Member States to cooperate with IOC and all concerned agencies and programmes of the United Nations to implement projects using sport as a tool for peacebuilding and human development, and have supported IOC and the Olympic Movement in their work to generate mutual understanding, solidarity, and peaceful dialogue among communities through the symbolic but powerful call for an observance of the Olympic Truce during each edition of the Olympic Games.

Recognition of the added value of sport to achieve the objectives of the United Nations was further acknowledged with the proclamation by the General Assembly that 1995 be celebrated as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Idea and 2005 as the International Year of Sport for Development and Peace.

7. Activities with United Nations peacekeeping missions

In May 2006, the Secretary-General formalized the working relationship that had already developed between IOC and some United Nations peacekeeping missions on the ground. He requested United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world to seriously consider applying sport to their work as they tried to rebuild confidence between parties emerging from a conflict.

The International Olympic Committee has successfully worked in Liberia with UNMIL, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with MONUC, and in Haiti with MINUSTAH through the country's sports community. IOC is developing programmes in Côte d'Ivoire with ONUCI and the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace to the Secretary-General. These programmes are meant to encourage communities, particularly young people, to interact, build confidence, and develop a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

The flag of the United Nations also flies at the Olympic Games.

8. Relations with United Nations agencies

The International Olympic Committee has signed memorandums of understanding with 15 specialized agencies and programmes, the oldest being the memorandum of understanding signed in 1922 between IOC and the International Labour Organization, and it cooperates with another 10 of them. The activities that IOC has undertaken in support of specialized agencies have been aimed particularly at human development, humanitarian relief and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Some examples are:

(a) **UNDP.** The two have teamed up to encourage Governments to place sport at the centre of development, mobilize communities for peace, and use sport to unite their peoples. IOC and UNDP organized a unique forum that brought together resident representatives, sports leaders and Governments to discuss the contribution of sport to development and nation-building.

(b) **ILO.** Poverty alleviation through local economic development activities and women's empowerment in sports have been the major focus of the IOC-ILO partnership over the years.

(c) **UNICEF.** Since 1996, IOC and UNICEF have striven to place their networks at the service of children and youth development, using basic physical and relational activities to address empowerment, health conditions and living standards. From HIV prevention to girls' education and leadership, joint initiatives have reached out to thousands of women and children, in particular from disadvantaged communities. In the framework of the Olympic Games, IOC has encouraged its partner organizations to provide resources to the agency and engage them in educating young people during the Games. The "Champions for Children's Rights" during the 2004 Athens Olympic Youth Camp was a particularly innovative collaboration.

(d) **UNAIDS.** IOC and UNAIDS have collaborated in a global educational programme that targets young people. The joint advocacy publication, which has a special appeal for young people, has been published in English, French, Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese and Swahili. Versions in other languages are planned for the future. IOC commits resources to its joint advocacy programmes, using sport as a vehicle to carry the message. At the Olympic Games and in between, high-profile sportspersons from across the globe lend their images, time and resources to participate in these programmes.

(e) **UNESCO.** The Olympic Movement works hand-in-hand with UNESCO in areas such as education, gender equality, culture and anti-doping education. The World Anti-Doping Agency was inspired by IOC to combat the scourge of doping in sport. The international anti-doping convention has been ratified by the necessary number of United Nations Member States at the behest of UNESCO.

(f) **UNEP.** The environment is a major element in the organization of the Olympic Games. UNEP is the partner of choice in environmental matters when IOC and Olympic Games host countries organize the Games. This partnership has now been extended to include a worldwide educational programme for young people using the unifying power of sport. The Secretary-General's report alludes to the just-ended confidence-building sports project in Kenya that was organized under the auspices of UNEP. IOC was a full partner in that project, mobilizing sports organizations to participate and providing resources.

(g) **WHO.** The health of sportspersons is paramount. IOC has always benefited from the advice of WHO on health issues and in designing and maintaining smoke-free Games. IOC and WHO work together to encourage the general public to participate in physical activity, and to organize the hugely successful Sport for All World Congress, which encourages the general public to adopt healthy lifestyles.

(h) **WFP.** IOC has started an alliance with WFP: it contributes financial resources to a programme to feed children and supports WFP projects in four countries in Africa and the Middle East. IOC has also supported the WFP worldwide "Walk the World: Fight Hunger" campaign by actively encouraging sportspersons to participate. In war-torn Somalia IOC has capitalized on its partnership with WFP by providing young people with sports equipment and other resources.

(i) **UNHCR.** In a long-standing cooperation programme, the Olympic Movement provides sporting and humanitarian assistance to the agency for refugees and displaced persons on three continents. The IOC "Giving is Winning" campaign has been a great success: in it, all sportspersons, National Olympic Committees and sports officials are requested to donate items of clothing. In 2004, the project collected eight 40-foot container-loads of clothing. In the lead-up to and during the Games in Beijing, the project collected 17 containers for donation to UNHCR. IOC has supported education and free-time programmes in refugee camps, providing material and financial resources. IOC is supporting the UNHCR project to use sport to address sexual and gender-based violence in refugee camps.

9. Activities with Governments and governmental organizations

The International Olympic Committee has worked with the European Union and the African Union to adequately position sport as an important socio-economic

activity and a contributor to the health, well-being and happiness of people. IOC supports talent identification and sports development programmes around the world, particularly making available financial resources for such developments to countries that need them most.

IOC, through the National Olympic Committees, works with Governments to send talented youngsters to school in their own countries; those with real potential are afforded opportunities to follow courses of their choice at appropriate universities while pursuing their sporting dreams.

10. Activities with other organizations

The International Olympic Committee works with some of the world's leading organizations in the service of society. It has collaborated with the Red Cross Movement in landmine clearance and in training people maimed by war and landmines. IOC has contributed to funds for victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

11. Reasons for seeking observer status for the International Olympic Committee

(a) The International Olympic Committee is the world's largest youth-based sports organization. Sport influences young people in particular and the world's community in general. Sport has a great influence on the socio-economic lives of people. The Olympic Movement reaches every facet of society.

(b) The International Olympic Committee and its partner sports organizations have worked with the United Nations, Governments and the international community in using sport to transform the lives of millions of people, especially young citizens across the globe, delivering education and services to the vulnerable, supporting environmental campaigns and providing a vehicle for the United Nations peacekeeping missions.

(c) The cornerstone of IOC social responsibility is to provide the United Nations with the necessary support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. IOC has identified six of the Goals as areas through which sport could make a large impact, and has been active in providing support through national programmes of some Member States or through United Nations agencies. These are:

Goal No. 1: Eradicate extreme poverty. The IOC programme for sports development at the grass-roots level is linked to poverty eradication. It has dedicated resources to the construction of basic sports infrastructures in developing countries in order to nurture the skills of young people and women in economically marginalized areas. Many United Nations agencies and the private sector are partners in this project. IOC has also launched an infrastructure development pilot project for developing countries. These facilities use sport to attract young people and the community as a whole to educational programmes, community development projects, health care and dialogue.

Goal No. 2: Achieve universal primary education. IOC has supported school programmes at all levels, providing resources for children to attend and complete school. In partnership with various organizations, IOC has provided resources for children caught in conflict to be educated, and has provided material support through United Nations agencies for young people in refugee camps to gain primary

education. A back-to-school project involving Governments, National Olympic Committees and the private sector has enabled thousands of children to return to primary school in parts of Africa. IOC has also provided resources for the construction and repair of classrooms, and is currently working with a United Nations agency to create libraries in a number of countries through sports organizations.

Goal No. 3: Promote gender equality and promote women. IOC has a special commission that deals with this issue as a priority. Every four years, it organizes a special world forum that deals with the promotion of women in all areas of society through sport. IOC also provides resources for the promotion of gender equality, and these resources are not reserved only for the sports community. Special educational programmes have been designed by external experts and are offered to women to make them more competitive. IOC works with several United Nations agencies to this end. It uses the occasion of International Women's Day to celebrate the contribution of women worldwide to the development of society, especially in the promotion of women and girls, for which special prizes are awarded. Recent recipients have included a minister, a prime minister and a first lady.

Goal No. 4: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. IOC is so concerned by the spread of the pandemic that it has launched a special programme to educate young people, using sport to reach them. Working with United Nations agencies, Governments, governmental and no. -governmental organizations, and the Red Cross Movement, IOC has galvanized the participation of young people in this process in Africa, Asia and Oceania. It has used the powerful symbol of the Olympic Torch relay to increase young people's awareness of the pandemic. IOC has also encouraged United Nations agencies to use the Olympic Games educational publication, "Together for HIV and AIDS Prevention", which will soon become the largest Olympic-related publication in the organization's history.

Goal No. 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. IOC takes great pride in its environmental policies. It has a dedicated Sport and Environment Commission that works with United Nations agencies to ensure environmental sustainability during the Olympic Games and educate young people around the world about preserving the environment. The IOC environmental policy is linked directly to Olympic Games legacy programmes, in which host countries are required to show that their programmes are designed to last beyond the duration of the games. IOC grants resources to educational programmes for young people around the world. Such programmes are also linked to economic sustainability and therefore contribute immensely to improving quality of life. IOC also collaborates with Governments and specialist organizations.

Goal No. 8: Develop a global partnership for development. For their success the Olympic Movement's activities leveraging the popularity, discipline and immense organizational power and capacity of sport to serve society depend on the partnership it has developed primarily with the United Nations and United Nations agencies, Governments of the world, the vast sporting community and its organization around the globe, specialist organizations, and the public. This partnership continues to be developed and strengthened. IOC understands the influence of sport on young people, and it will continue to help its partners deliver educational and development programmes to those who need it, providing some of the resources itself.

12. Conclusion

At the World Summit in New York, Heads of State and Government of Member States formally recognized sport as an important tool for development and peace and included the following statement in their declaration:

> We underline that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and we encourage discussion in the General Assembly for a proposal leading to a plan of action on sport and development.

The Secretary-General's follow-up report to the General Assembly entitled "Sport for development and peace: progress and prospects" (A/62/325 and Corr.1), outlining measures taken during the first years of the three-year Action Plan defined in his prior report, "Sport for development and peace: the way forward" (A/61/373). The report justifies amply the important role that sport plays in the development of society and in supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. His report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, "Sport for development and peace: building on the foundations" (A/63/466), mentions cooperation between IOC and United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies during the Olympic Games in Beijing.

It is the intention of IOC to maintain this momentum and support the United Nations in pursuing its mandate, as well as to intensify its communication and collaborative action with the United Nations.

Annex II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Considering the unique status and long-standing dedication of the International Olympic Committee to placing sport at the service of humanity and promoting a peaceful global society,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Olympic Committee to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.